



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

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**Testimony
Submitted to the
GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS COMMITTEE
March 19, 2010**

**HB 5515 AN ACT CONCERNING GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY THROUGH REGIONALIZATION
IN CONNECTICUT**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) strongly opposes HB 5515, An Act Concerning Government Efficiency through Regionalization in Connecticut.

This bill proposes a total dismantling of the current governance structure for education in Connecticut. Not only does it eliminate the responsibility of municipal funding for education, but it eliminates the regional educational service centers and the State Department of Education's grants and school construction functions. In addition, a new level of government, a "regional council" would be created. We have no reason to believe that this bill would provide for any efficiencies or enhancement in the delivery of educational services. In fact, it is the regional educational service centers which currently provide much needed assistance to boards of education in a multitude of areas, including professional development, special education services, and collaborative purchasing.

Boards have sought out cooperative arrangements and have continue to seek such opportunities to work with their municipalities and other districts. Regional efficiency are working differently in each area of the state.

We believe a proposal of such tremendous magnitude to fundamentally alter Connecticut's educational system should not be considered until there is a complete study of the implications and analysis of the costs or projected savings.

We appreciate your attention to this issue.